

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02

EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AGRE-00 SS-15 SP-02

DODE-00 HEW-04 /113 W

----- 107586

R 031144Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6823

INFO DEA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE GROWTH OF THE BRACTEATUM POPPY
IN THE U.S.

REF: A) BANGKOK 32086 (NOTAL) B) RANGOON 3915 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY BANGKOK AGREES FULLY WITH THE VIEWS OF AMBASSADOR
VANCE (REF A) REGARDING THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW PRODUCTION OF
THE BRACTEATUM POPPY IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS PROPOSAL
APPEARS TO BE OF LITTLE BENEFIT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-
NARCOTICS EFFORT AND MAY WELL TARNISH THE IMAGE OF THE U.S.
AS THE LEADER OF THAT EFFORT.

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2. THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT IS TAKING A TOUGH STAND ON NARCOTICS, PRIMARILY OUT OF THE REALIZATION THAT THAILAND HAS A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM ITSELF, AND IS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT NARCOTICS NETWORK. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS THAI COMMITMENT WOULD CHANGE IMMEDIATELY IF THE U.S. WERE TO BEGIN GROWING POPPIES. NEVERTHELESS, THE THAI WOULD BE CERTAIN TO VIEW OUR POSITION AS SOMEWHAT CYNICAL AND SELF-SERVING, AND WE MIGHT WELL LOSE A GREAT DEAL OF INFLUENCE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE THAI WOULD TEND TO QUESTION THE MOTIVES BEHIND THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, AND THIS MIGHT HAVE A SERIOUS, DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IN THAILAND.

3. WE HOPE THAT ALL OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS PROPOSAL ARE FULLY CONSIDERED BY WASHINGTON BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISION IS MADE TO BEGIN GROWING THE BRACTEATUM POPPY. IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF A DECISION WERE MADE WHICH MIGHT UNDERMINE OUR ENTIRE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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